



The Future of Solid Waste Services

MARCH 3, 2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Career Pathways

- Outside agency partnerships
- In-house CDL training
- HiSET (GED) program
- Soft skills coaching
- Resume writing sessions
- Financial literacy workshop



Continuing Service Through COVID-19



- Personal protective equipment
- Daily truck sanitizing
- Clear physical barriers in trucks
- Reduction in crew size
- Contract crew assistance
- Automated driver cross-training

Current Services



**Garbage
Collections
Weekly**



**Yard Waste
Collections
Weekly**



**Recycling
Collections
Bi-weekly
(contracted provider)**



**Bulky
Collections
By appointment
(unlimited)**

Other Services: Litter pickup (right-of-way cleaning), street sweeping, public receptacles, maintain central business district, dead animal collections, business garbage collections, special events and maintain CATS transit lines

Solid Waste Services has been transitioning services to side-loader trucks



Rear-loader



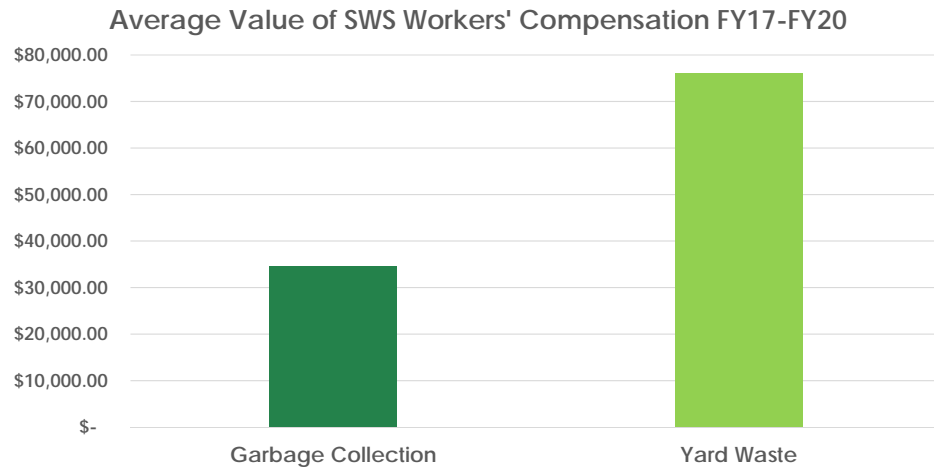
Automated Side-loader

Continued Automation is Recommended by OSHA

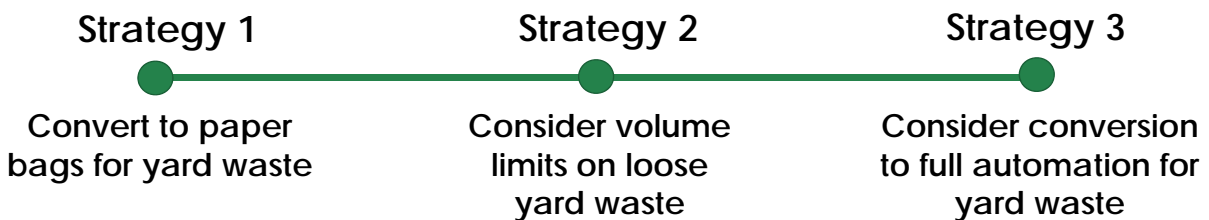
Following an investigation in July of 2020, OSHA recommended Solid Waste Services do the following:

“Conduct a side-loader automation study in order to convert all collection operations to an automation process. Some of the general advantages of automated collection often touted by its proponents include the following: improved collection efficiency, reduce employee injuries and fatalities, lower turnover rate and increased productivity due to less time missed by injured employees and reduced worker’s compensation claims and insurance premiums.”

Yard Waste Remains Serviced by Rear-Loaders and Drives Worker Injuries



Strategies to Improve Worker Safety



Utilization of Compostable Paper Bags

- Plastic bags are not accepted at the Mecklenburg County Compost Facility
- Eliminates need for workers to stand by truck and open plastic bags with a knife
- Paper bags are biodegradable
- Work in conjunction with yard waste bins

Implementation of Limits

- Loose, non-containerized yard waste
- Total volume 128 cubic feet or size of a refrigerator on its back
 - Separate in small piles
 - Limbs < 4 feet in length and 18 inches in diameter
 - Logs < 50 pounds



Conversion to Bin Program for Yard Waste

Advantages

- Long-term operational efficiency
- Worker safety
- No loose material awaiting pickup
- Equitable level of service

Disadvantages

- Significant initial capital investment
- Space limitations for residents
- Transition process

Comparison of Yard Waste Programs in North Carolina

| | Bans Plastic Bags? | City-issued Cart? | Cart Cost | Quantity/Size Limits? | Limit |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Charlotte | ✗ | ✗ | NA | ✗ | None |
| Cary | ✓ | ✗ | NA | ✓ | 240 cubic feet |
| Concord | ✗ | ✗ | NA | ✗ | None |
| Durham | ✓ | ✓ | \$90/year | ✓ | 5 bags (paper) |
| Fayetteville | ✗ | ✓ | \$64/cart | ✓ | 540 cubic feet |
| Greensboro | ✗ | ✗ | NA | ✓ | 10 bags |
| Greenville | ✗ | ✗ | NA | ✗ | None |
| High Point | ✗ | ✓ | \$57/cart | ✗ | None |
| Raleigh | ✗ | ✗ | NA | ✓ | 20 bags |
| Wilmington | ✗ | ✗ | NA | ✓ | 189 cubic feet |
| Winston-Salem | ✓ | ✓ | \$65/cart + \$65/year | ✓ | 3 carts |

What Expenses Does the Fee Recover?

The Solid Waste ordinance defines the fee as supporting “residential solid waste services”, which includes garbage, yard waste, bulky item, and recycling collection and disposal

FY21 Cost Estimates by Service Type

| Garbage | Yard Waste | Bulky | Recycling | Total |
|---------|------------|--------|-----------|----------------|
| \$35.7M | \$12.1M | \$5.7M | \$12.2M | \$65.6M |

Fee Revenue: \$24.1M

Equal to:

- 37% of all costs; OR
- 68% of garbage collections; OR
- 80% of all services beyond garbage collection

Comparison of Charlotte Rates to Next 10 Biggest North Carolina Cities/Towns



Thank You!

Questions?